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ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
H-01 NSAE-00 HA-09 L-03 PM-10 PA-01 BIB-01
USIE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 /039 W
-----347523 062339Z /70

P 061555Z FEB 87
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5862
INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMCONSUL GOTEBOG POUCH
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD POUCH

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E.O.123560 DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, SW, UR, PHUM
SUBJECT: SOVIET SPOKESMAN RAISES WALLENBERG ISSUE AT
PRESS CONFERENCE

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: THE PRESS ATTACHE AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY
IN STOCKHOLM UNEXPECTEDLY RAISED THE ISSUE OF RAOUL
WALLENBERG AT A PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 5, IN AN
APPARENT EFFORT NOT ONLY TO PUT THE GOVERNMENT OF PM
INGVAR CARLSSON ON THE SPOT, BUT ALSO TO TRY TO WRITE
FINIS TO THE WALLENBERG CASE ONCE AND FOR ALL. END
SUMMARY.

3. SOVIET EMBASSY PRESS SPOKESMAN ANATOLI NOVIKOV
VOLUNTEERED FOR ASSEMBLED REPORTERS THE INFORMATION
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THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN BORIS PANKIN HAD

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE	IS/EPG/CDR	DATE	10/14/93
(X) RELEASE	(X) EXCISE	(X) DECLASSIFY	(X) DOWNGRADE
() EXCISE	() DECLASSIFY	() DOWNGRADE	() DOWNGRADE
() DECLASSIFY	() DOWNGRADE	() DOWNGRADE	() DOWNGRADE
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PA Exemptions	PA Exemptions	PA Exemptions	PA Exemptions

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RESPONDED ON JULY 31 TO PM CARLSSON'S REQUEST FOR A NEW INVESTIGATION INTO THE WALLENBERG DISAPPEARANCE. NOVIKOV CLAIMED THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD INDEED CONDUCTED A NEW INVESTIGATION, AND CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING TO ADD TO THEIR PREVIOUS CLAIM, I.E., THAT WALLENBERG HAD PERISHED AT LUBLIANKA RISON IN 1947. "WE CAN ONLY REGRET WHAT HAPPENED," NOVIKOV WAS QUOTED AS SAYING.

4. THE NEWS THAT THE SOVIETS HAD RESPONDED TO PM CARLSSON'S REQUEST FOR A NEW INVESTIGATION, WHICH HE MADE IN APRIL 1986 DURING A VISIT TO MOSCOW, CAME AS A SURPRISE TO THE SWEDISH MEDIA. THEY QUERIED MFA PRESS OFFICER BO HEINEBACK, WHO COMMENTED THAT "IT IS NOT ABNORM

L TO NOT PUBLISH EVERYTHING WHEN IT COMES TO DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS." HEINEBACK ADDED THAT "WE DO NOT CONSIDER THE INFORMATION FROM MOSCOW AS THE FINAL ACCOUNT." HEINEBACK REMINDED REPORTERS THAT AS LATE AS JANUARY 17 THIS YEAR, ON THE 42ND ANNIVERSARY OF WALLENBERG'S DISAPPEARANCE IN BUDAPEST, FOREIGN MINISTER STEN ANDERSSON PROMISED THAT SWEDEN WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO CLARIFY WALLENBERG'S FATE "FOR AS LONG AS THE PREVAILING UNCERTAINTY REMAINS."

5. COMMENT: THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS OSTENSIBLY CALLED SO THAT THE SOVIETS COULD INFORM THE MEDIA THAT THEY HAVE AGREED TO RESOLVE 16 OF 21 FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES WHICH PM CARLSSON CALLED ATTENTION TO DURING HIS APRIL VISIT. WHILE THEY SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING THE CARLSSON GOVERNMENT ON THE SPOT BY REVEALING DETAILS OF THEIR CONFIDENTIAL DIPLOMATIC
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EXCHANGES WITH THE SWEDES, THE SOVIETS' ACTUAL MOTIVE WAS PROBABLY MORE AMBITIOUS. IF THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT HAD ALLOWED ITSELF TO BE PUT IN THE POSITION OF PUBLICLY ACCEPTING THE "NEW" SOVIET INVESTIGATION AS FINAL, THEN THE LONGSTANDING EMBARRASSMENT OF THE WALLENBERG DISAPPEARANCE WOULD HAVE BEEN PUT TO REST AT LONG LAST, AND THE SOVIETS WOULD DOUBTLESS HAVE POINTED TO SUCH AN OUTCOME AS YET ANOTHER TRIUMPH FOR THE POLICY OF "GLASNOST." IN THIS INSTANCE, HOWEVER, THEIR GAMBIT CLEARLY FAILED. END

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